

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2017 at 7.00pm
in St Andrews Methodist Church

Present Cllr D Moffatt (Chair)
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr D Montaut
Cllr J Rodrigues
Cllr K D Small
Cllr T Smith
Cllr S Thompson
Cllr J Yeowell

Officers Joyce Holman (Parish Clerk)
Andy Reeves (Parish Manager)
Hannah Morgan (Deputy Clerk)
Bernice Mack (Community Assets Manager)

Public Three

Public Session A representative from Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association complained that the website was not up to date and he had attended a meeting that had been cancelled. The Chair stated that a Calendar of Meetings had been drawn up but it was sometimes necessary to change dates at the last minute and this would be advertised on the Parish Council website. He also complained that Rodbourne Cheney was not mentioned on the website, but on further investigation by Cllr Small, it was established that this was not the official website, which the Parish Council had no control over the content. The Clerk was asked to look into emailing agendas to community groups in the future. The Parish Council were also investigating noticeboards for the parish.

He also asked about a new litter bin for the bus shelter outside Farm Foods. The Chair said that 3 new litter bins were on order and the Parish Council would continue to monitor where new bins were required.

A member of the public asked about allotments and the Chair stated that the Parish Council were in the process of taking over the allotments and this would be discussed later in the meeting.

203 **Apologies**
Cllr J Ballman (Vice-Chair)
Cllr P Baker
Cllr R Ballman
Cllr P Exell
Cllr S Exell
Cllr H Fullick
Cllr S Henderson
Cllr K Parker

204 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None.

205 **Minutes of the previous meetings**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 20 September 2017 be approved as a correct record.

206 **Planning & Environment Committee**

The Chair referred to 3.4 within Minute 199 and stated that the Parish Council would oppose the change of hours due to the impact on local residents. Cllr Smith asked for his apologies to be added.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 4 September 2017 be confirmed and adopted.

207 **Library Trust**

The Parish Manager stated that the Library trust was being set up in order to secure the running of the 4 libraries that were due to close and by setting up a Trust there would be a saving of NNDR payments and it would be possible to apply for grants.

Cllr Montaut asked about reducing costs by reducing hours in the future and it was confirmed that the SLA agreement with SBC for the library service could be changed in the future. Cllr Small stated that he would prefer the library to be in the direct control of the Parish Council but accepted the financial advantages of setting up a Trust. Cllr Rodrigues asked about any income and the Parish Manager confirmed this would just be from fines.

The Parish Manager was working on the Foundation Constitution and Parish Council Trustees needed to be appointed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council Trustees for the Library Trust be Cllrs, Baker, J Ballman, Henderson, Small and Yeowell and the remaining Trustees with the additional 5 Trustees being from the public.

208 **Allotments**

The Chair stated that the Allotment Working Party had met on Monday and the Terms of Reference had been agreed. The allotment sites would be transferred to the Parish Council on 1 November 2017. There was a lot of work to be done to improve the sites, look after vacant plots and look into the possibility of gatekeeper for each site. The majority of the allotment sites were well used; with the exception of Pickards Field which had lots of empty plots.

RESOLVED that the approval of any expenditure to improve the allotment site recommended by the Allotment Working Party be delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair of Finance & Staffing Committee for approval.

209 **Chairs Report**

The Chair reported that the Parish Council had taken over John Moulton Hall from Swindon Borough Council in August 2017. He introduced Bernice Mack to Councillors who had been appointed as Community Assets Manager and had already made a big difference. She had already encouraged new community groups back to use the building and was setting up coffee morning for local people.

The Parish Council were waiting for a lease to be agreed for Chapel Street Toilets and the Parish Council could then look at the refurbishment work. The quotes already received were very expensive and the Parish Manager was asked to obtain quotes for individual jobs and get the work completed in stages.

The Parish Council has also been offered the Orange/EE building in Penhill and he asked Councillors to look at the building ahead of making a decision on whether to take over the building. It was being offered free of charge, but there would be NNDR of £5K.

210 Parish Council Representatives' Report

The Chair stated that Cllrs J Ballman and S Exell attended the SAC WALC Meeting but they were not present to make a report.

The Chair reported that he had attended a meeting with the Chair of South Swindon Parish Council, Cllrs J Ballman, Cllr R Ballman and the Section 151 Officer at Swindon Borough Council to discuss the proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Grant. A decision had not been made by Swindon Borough Council but it looked like the calculation would not be changed.

The Chair referred to the Playing Fields Consultation from Swindon Borough Council as most of the sports facilities were within the parish. The Parish Council needed to ensure that they received developer contributions for sports facilities, not just from the parish but from the whole of Swindon.

The Chair referred to the play area at Penhill that was actually in the Parish of St Andrews. The play area had been closed and he understood that St Andrews Parish Council were considering either removing the play equipment or asking for this Parish Council to contribute towards the cost of repairs.

The Chair said that he was keen to distribute a newsletter as soon as possible. The Chair and Vice-Chair would draw up a draft for consideration and Cllr Henderson agreed that he would look distribution costs.

Cllr Small asked for the Parliamentary Review to be on a future agenda.

Councillors discussed the change of name and noted that the official name of the parish remained Central Swindon North Parish Council although the public and other groups were using North Swindon Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council